

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

The specification has been amended to correct a minor error found on page 13. No new matter has been added.

No claims are currently being cancelled.

Claims 7, 15 and 16 are currently being amended.

Claims 22-26 are currently being added.

This amendment adds and amends deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-26 are now pending in this application.

Applicant appreciates the indication in the Office Action that claims 5, 6, 8-14 and 20 would be allowed if those claims were amended to place those claims in independent form to include all of the features of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Please note that new claim 22 is written similar to "objected to" claim 20 but where new claim 22 depends from claim 21 instead of claim 19, and thus new claim 22 is believed to contain allowable subject matter for the same reasons that are given in the Office Action for claim 20.

Objection to the Drawings:

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. With respect to the objection raised in numbered paragraph 1) of the Office Action, Figure 1 has been amended to correctly give the number 12 label to the ROM, and the right-most transceiver node has been amended to correctly give it the number 220 label.

With respect to the objection to the drawings raised in numbered paragraph 2) of the Office Action, Applicant's representative cannot find a "616" reference sign in the drawings, and thus clarification is sought with respect to this objection.

With respect to the objection to the drawings raised in numbered paragraph 3) of the Office Action, Figure 9 has been amended to refer to it as "Figures 9A, 9B, 9C and 9D."

With respect to the objection to the drawings raised in numbered paragraph 4) of the Office Action, please note that labels 221 and 222 are shown in Figure 11 of the drawings.

Objection of Claims 15, 16 and 17:

In the Office Action, claims 15, 16 and 17 were objected to for the reasons set forth on page 3 of the Office Action. Due to the amendments made to claims 15 and 16, this objection has been mooted.

Section 112 Rejection of Claim 7:

In the Office Action, claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, for the reasons set forth on page 3 of the Office Action. Claim 7 has been amended based on the helpful comments provided in the Office Action, and it is submitted that presently pending claim 7 is not indefinite.

Section 102(a) Rejection of Claims 1-3, 18 and 19:

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,509,988 to Saito. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the invention according to claim 1, an inbound second packet is transmitted as an outbound second packet at a first speed, and an inbound first packet is transmitted as an outbound first packet at a second speed. Saito, on the other hand, determines a lowest value of transmission speeds between two nodes operating at different speeds, and transmits all packets between those

two nodes at the "lowest value of transmission" speed. See, for example, column 3, line 66 to column 4, line 7 of Saito.

Thus, Saito does not disclose or suggest the transmitting of first and second packets at first and second speeds between two nodes, respectively, but rather Saito transmits first and second packets at a single speed that is compatible to both nodes.

Accordingly, independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Saito.

Since independent claims 18 and 19 include features that are discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, and since claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1, those claims are also not anticipated by Saito.

Section 103(a) rejection of claims 4 and 21:

In section 103(c), which was added in November 29, 1999, "Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under one or more of subsections (e), (f), and (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person."

Please note that this application is assigned to NEC Corporation, and that the Saito reference (which qualifies as prior art only under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e)) is also assigned to NEC Corporation.

Thus, for this reason, as well as for the reasons given above with respect to independent claim 1 (with regards to patentable differences between Saito and the present invention), claim 4 is patentable over the cited art of record.

New Claims:

New claims 22-26 have been added to recite additional features of the present invention that are believed to patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. New claim 22, as explained earlier, is similar in scope to "objected to" claim 20, and thus claim 22 is patentable for the same reasons as provided in the Office Action with respect to claim 20. New claims 23 and 24 have been

added based on the "multiple dependency objection" to claims 16 and 17. New claims 25 and 26 have been added to specifically recite that the first and second speeds are different, which is a feature clearly lacking in Saito.

Accordingly, since there are no other objections or rejections made in the Office Action, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

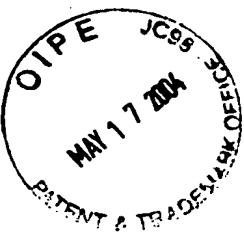
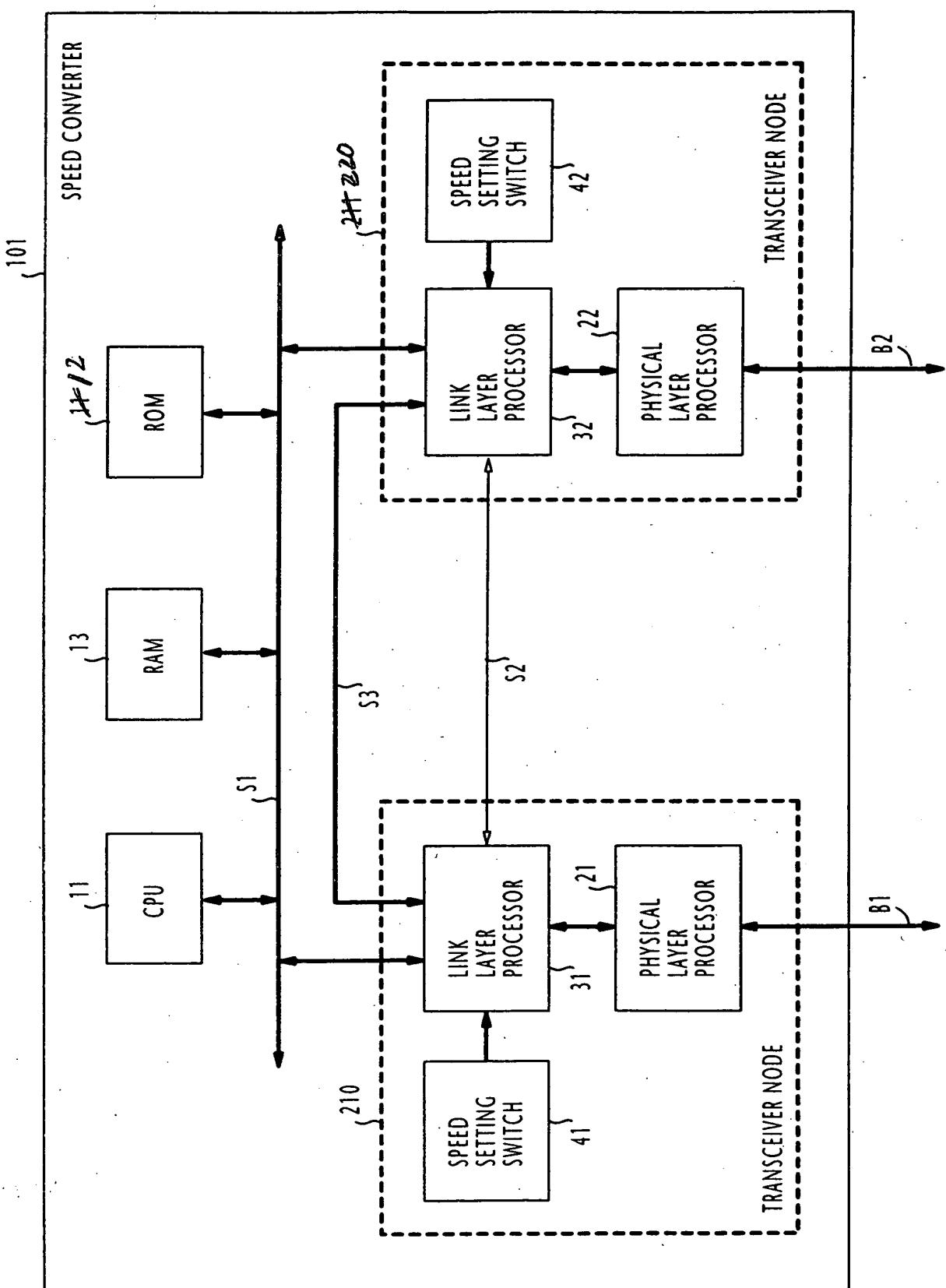
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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**FIG. 1**

**FIG. 6A**

PHY ID OF XCVR NODE 210	PHY ID OF B2-COMM NODE
3	0 (NODE 241)

FIG. 6B

PHY ID OF XCVR NODE 220	PHY ID OF B1-COMM NODE
1	2 (NODE 231)
1	1 (NODE 232)
1	0 (NODE 233)

FIG. 13A

PHY ID OF XCVR NODE	PHY ID OF B2-COMM NODE
4 (NODE 211)	2 (NODE 321)
3 (NODE 212)	1 (NODE 322)
2 (NODE 213)	0 (NODE 323)

FIG. 13B

PHY ID OF XCVR NODE	PHY ID OF B1-COMM NODE
4 (NODE 211) 221	1 (NODE 311)
3 (NODE 212) 222	0 (NODE 312)



Title: SPEED CONVERTER FOR IEEE-1394
SERIAL BUS NETWORK
Inventor(s): Wataru DOMON, et al.
Appl. No.: 09/671,150

7/11

NE-1020

FIG. 9A

oMPR FORMAT

Data rate capability	Broadcast channel base	Non-persistent extension field	Persistent extension field	Reserved	Number of output plugs
2	6	8	8	3	5

F1 G. 9B
iMPR FORMAT

Data rate capability	Reserved	Non-persistent extension field	Persistent extension field	Reserved	Number of output plugs
2	6	8	8	3	5

F1 G. 9C
oPCR FORMAT

On-line	Broadcast connection counter	Point-to-point connection counter	Reserved	Channel number	Data rate	Overhead ID	Payload
1	1	6	2	6	2	4	10

F1 G. 9D
iPCR FORMAT

On-line	Broadcast connection counter	Point-to-point connection counter	Reserved	Channel number	Reserved
1	1	6	2	6	16

FIG. 11

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